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The Private Library
1868-1876

The Public Library
1876-1926

HISTORY

of the

CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

and

READING ROOM



by

EDWIN A. KRATZ

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

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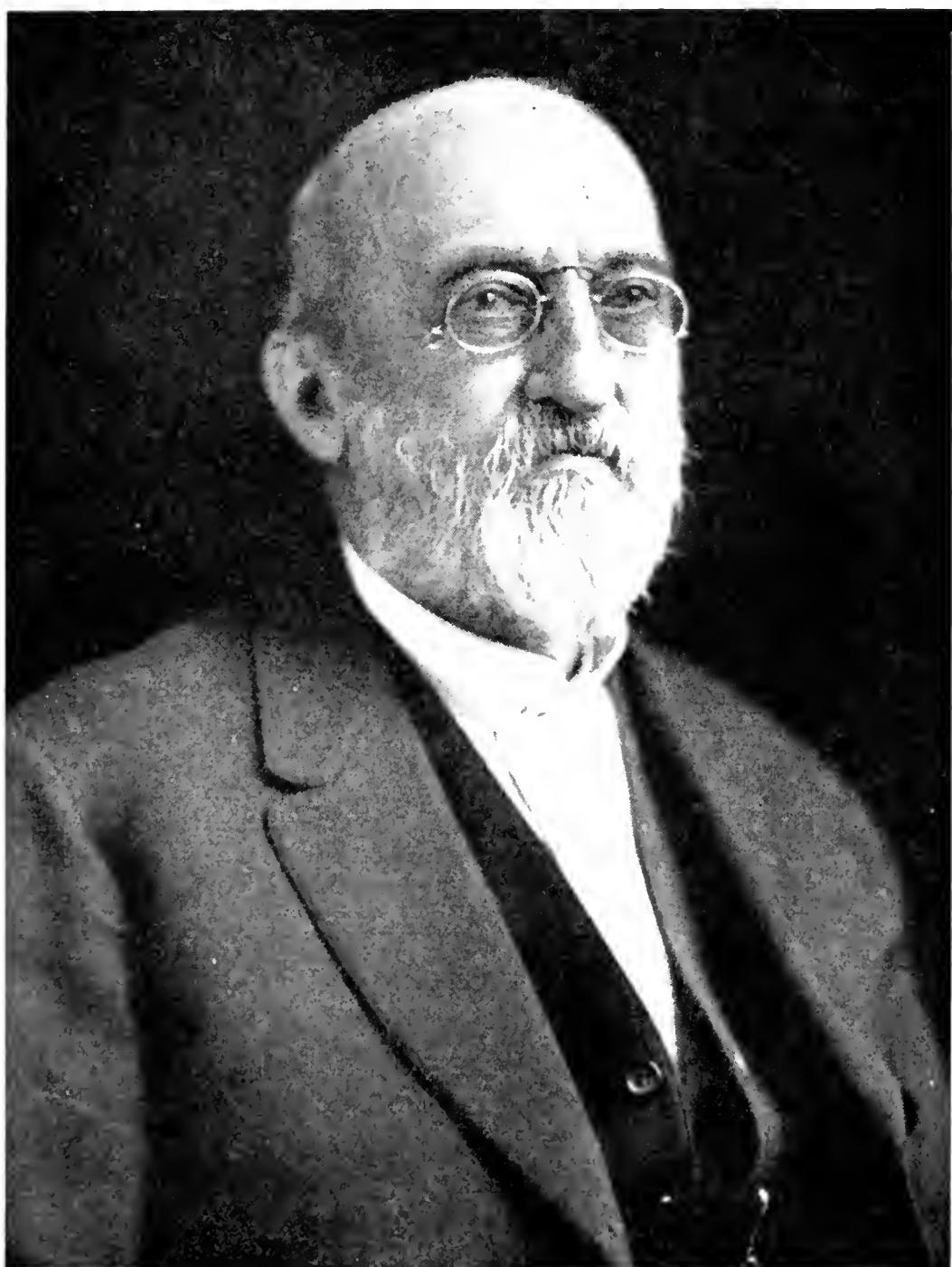


by

EDWIN A. KRATZ

TO HENRY REVETT

Friend and companion; Enterprising, Conscientious and public spirited Citizen, who was not only a charter member of the Champaign Library Association, but as Mayor of the City, he had the honor of naming the first Board of Directors of the Champaign Public Library, and for three subsequent years he maintained the high standard of the Board by Acts of Appointment.



DR. E. A. KRATZ

FOREWORD

IFTY years ago (February 14, 1867) a visitor arrived in the City of Champaign, with no intention of remaining long, direct from a little village in Pennsylvania of less than 200 inhabitants, which was supporting a fine library of which he was a member, and here keenly felt the want of a Library and reading room in this thriving western city of some 4000 inhabitants.

This matter was spoken of to an Uncle, Mr. Beidler, and several other "old residents" with whom he came in contact, but nothing developed from the suggestion until a year later. On his return from Ann Arbor, Mich. the project was put on foot and the Champaign Library Association was duly organized on May 7, 1868, the first of its kind in the city.

At the last annual meeting of the Association held May 11, 1876, a new secretary was elected, E. T. Whitecomb, a hail-fellow-well-met, who left not the scratch of a pen, either of said epochal meeting or subsequent one surrendering its property. Even the record book is gone. But, for the private notes of the author himself, all official data leading up to the transfer is lost.

As it is not expected that this document will reach the public, at least without severe censoring, a few personalities will be indulged, in which I take considerable pride. I was a charter member of the Library Association in 1868; Custodian of the few books on hand in 1869; Secretary when the Library was rejuvenated in 1871; Librarian when it was given to the City in 1876; Director and Secretary of the first Board under City domination; Secretary when the Library was moved into the City Building in 1889; again Secretary of the Board when it took possession of the Burnham Athenaeum in 1896; President of the Board in 1900 when the Children's department was opened up; also in 1901 when the experimental branch was established with a voluntary assistant; and Acting Secretary in 1914 when the first report was published, which constituted my last service for the Library, and am now the self appointed historian (at my daughter's suggestion).

When the Librarian (Ethel G. Kratz), in December 1916 asked me to write a forty year history of the Library, I was inclined to consider it a good joke. Not having had the advantages of an academic education, I felt that others more capable in a literary sense could do the subject better justice, but she persisted in my doing it—that it could be typewritten for preservation. So it was commenced, and as most of the data is in my private memorandum, I soon became interested and have strung the thing out more fully than at first contemplated, giving facts without embellishment as a basis for some future historian to polish up in literary style.

Ten years later, on the fiftieth anniversary of the establishing of the Champaign Library, at the request of the Library Board of Trustees, I have endeavored to bring the survey down to date, as well as my advanced age (82 years) and physical condition will permit.

E. A. KRATZ, M. D.
June, 1926.

THE PRIVATE LIBRARY



THE Champaign Library Association was the forerunner, the advance guard of the Public Library and Reading room located in the Burnham Athenaeum, in which our people have a just pride.

It had its inception Tuesday evening April 28, 1868, when T. B. Sweet, Henry Beardsley, J. S. Lothrop, A. D. Eads, and Geo. M. Noble, self appointed committee held a conference in Mr. Sweet's office in Barrett Block (Swannell) No. 1, Main Street. They resolved "That a Library Association be organized for the purpose of opening and maintaining a Library and Reading room for the benefit of the members thereof, as nothing of the kind existed in this city with a population of about 4000." They agreed to formulate a Constitution to present at a meeting to be called by public notice embodying said resolution.

Thursday, May 7, 1868, the first meeting of the Champaign Library Association was held in Barrett Hall, pursuant to said notice. Mr. Sweet was chosen temporary Chairman and Mr. Noble, Secretary. A Constitution and Bylaws (now lost) was presented by Mr. Lothrop and adopted, and the following persons there subscribed their names to said Constitution as members of the Association and paid the annual dues of \$2.00 each. To wit: G. W. Atherton, principal of the High School; Aaron Beidler, lumber; J. S. Jones, attorney; T. B. Sweet, insurance; J. S. Lothrop, attorney; J. S. Wright, retired; Henry Beardsley, real estate; E. A. McAllister, postmaster; A. C. Burnham, banker; C. G. Larned, tinner; A. D. Eads, surveyor; G. M. Noble, student; B. D. Harbison, retired; B. C. Beach, elevator; C. E. Baker, grain buyer; C. Hesse, planing mill; Henry Trevett, hardware; Peter Lockrie, editor; L. C. Garwood, jeweler; W. H. Kratz, lumber; E. A. Kratz, medical student; Theodore Johnson, medical student; D. Rodoker, photographer; D. T. Martin, medical student; C. S. Morehouse, dry-goods; John Faulds, supt. Mt. Hope—total 26 members. Of the above pioneers the author is the only one left, the others having all passed into the great unknown.

As this was not a corporate body, three Trustees were elected, A. C. Burnham, C. G. Larned, and J. S. Wright.

The management of the Association was vested in a Board of seven Directors, consisting of the officers and two members, and the following were duly elected: President, G. W. Atherton; Vice-president, J. S. Jones; Secretary, J. S. Lothrop; Treasurer, Aaron Beidler; Librarian, T. B. Sweet; and Henry Beardsley and E. N. McAllister, constituted the Board of Directors. The meeting exhibited considerable enthusiasm throughout, satisfied that it had blazed the way for something tangible to follow, and adjourned.

The first act of the Directors was to open a reading room:

1930-3-1

accordingly the rear room on the second floor at No. 7 Main Street was secured from A. C. Burnham at a nominal rental. Two tables and a few chairs constituted the furniture. The leading periodicals and several metropolitan dailies and weeklies were placed there regularly. By the end of the calendar year, the membership roll numbered 40 residents of the city and the "Library" consisted of nearly 300 vols.

Right here is where it struck a snag which came well nigh wrecking the young Association. The Reading room proved a complete failure, subscriptions were not renewed, the room was abandoned and the books placed in Dr. Kratz's office, No. 15 Main Street.

This experience proved so discouraging that no further effort was made in the Reading room line, and for two years the Association and its Library was in a state of innocent desuetude, so to speak, but the Directors kept its object and ultimate purpose of the Association before the public, by giving lectures and entertainments in the name of the Association for the benefit of the Library, during the winter months, by engaging speakers of National repute—John B. Gough, Anna Dickinson, Wendell Phillips, Robert Collyer, and others equally well known, to full houses, during this interim which netted some four hundred dollars towards a fresh start for a library.

Incorporation papers were filed in the Secretary of State's office August 7, 1871, and late in September 1871 new life was injected into the moribund Association. The above fund was invested in books, the membership began to increase, a new catalog was made and the Library moved into the Gazette Counting room on the second floor of No. 26 Main Street, the editor, Geo. Seroggs, agreeing to act as librarian, where it had a home for four years, during which time the membership roll increased to 160 and the shelves bulged out with 750 volumes of good, clean reading matter.

An incident connected with the first purchase of books shows how it was proposed to make a little go a long way. Three bids were received: a local firm, a Chicago house, and a New York house made estimates on the \$400 invoice. Our directors proceeded to separate the low items of each, expecting of course there would be no complaint, but it is needless to say the contract was not filled that way.

Thus far in the life of the Association there was no operating expense in maintaining the institution. The librarian's services were given free and also there was no charge for shelf room. The patronage justified a paid librarian, which the income was not able to meet. It became very apparent that a different policy must be adopted for the future usefulness of the Library.

Hence when the Association met in annual assembly on May 11, 1876, a majority of the members attending, the matter received most careful and conscientious attention. A complete shift

was made in the offices and trustees. This meeting and subsequent affairs of the Association the Secretary failed to record, but from private memorandum, an estimate of the holdings of the Association and the patronage of the Library, was substantially 700 volumes valued at \$900.00, book cases, tables, furniture and cash \$423.46, making a total of \$1323.46; and that 2135 volumes were loaned to members the past year of which 40% were fiction, humor, drama.

20% were history, biography, travel.

30% were juveniles.

10% were science, art, miscellany.

The future usefulness of the Library to the general public was carefully considered, and the members being in a generous mood it was unanimously resolved "That the Champaign Library Association give to the city of Champaign such of its property, books, furniture and money, on consideration that the said city would establish and maintain a free Public Library and Reading room, in accordance with the Statutes of the State, by an annual appropriation of at least \$1000.00 which was then considered a liberal amount." The Association then adjourned awaiting the action of the City.

It appears from the deed of gift that another meeting of the Association was held on August 25, 1876, for the purpose evidently of authorizing the Trustees to make the necessary transfer.

The deed of conveyance was duly executed, signed and sealed and delivered on September 18, 1876 by which act the Champaign Library Association passed into history. The text of said deed is given in the next chapter: The Public Library.

The following persons were duly elected as trustees at the several annual meetings:

A. C. Burnham—three years.
J. S. Wright—three years.
C. G. Larned—four years.
L. W. Walker—one year.
E. V. Peterson—four years.
G. F. Beardsley—one year.
J. W. Langley—one year.
Chas. Glover—one year.
I. H. Hess—three years.
J. T. Pearman—one year.
J. Bacon—three years.
John Thomas—one year.
W. A. Moore—one year.

The last three being in office at the finale, duly signed and executed the Deed of Gift to the City.

Members

1868

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| G. W. Atherton | L. S. Bullard |
| Aaron Beidler | J. Bacon |
| Henry Beardsley | J. E. Conklin |
| A. C. Burnham | R. B. Conditt |
| G. F. Beardsley | Rev. A. L. Farr |
| B. C. Beach | O. H. Hollister |
| C. E. Baker | J. M. Healy |
| T. M. Berry | B. W. Hamlin |
| Ben Burroughs | H. C. Howard |
| Geo. Brown | G. E. Hessel |
| C. W. Byer | B. F. Harris |
| D. P. Beach | I. H. Hess |
| A. D. Eads | Mrs. A. Hall |
| John Faulds | G. W. Hawk |
| B. F. Fillmore | J. J. Ingersoll |
| L. C. Garwood | B. F. Johnson |
| B. D. Harbison | G. W. Kennard |
| C. Hesse | M. E. Lapham |
| M. S. Hall | J. W. Langley |
| T. H. Hurlick | Ezekiel Miller |
| Mrs. J. C. Hall | S. M. Marble |
| J. S. Jones | J. S. Oliver |
| Theo. Johnson | P. W. Plank |
| A. L. Jones | J. T. Pearman |
| W. H. Kratz | E. V. Peterson |
| E. A. Kratz | Thos. E. Price |
| J. S. Lotrop | J. B. Russell |
| C. G. Larned | E. C. Richards |
| Peter Lockrie | Daniel Rugg |
| E. N. McAllister | Geo. Seroggs |
| D. T. Martin | C. M. Sherfy |
| C. S. Morehouse | C. W. Spear |
| J. B. McKinley | H. D. Stoltz |
| G. M. Noble | C. J. Sabin |
| D. Rodoker | H. Swannell |
| T. B. Sweet | T. J. Smith |
| E. L. Sweet | L. W. Tulleys |
| Henry Trevett | John Thomas |
| J. S. Wright | Frank Wilcox |
| J. J. Bogardus | L. W. Walker |
| David Bailey | C. B. Whitmore |
| Seely Brown | |

1872

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| H. T. Aspern | John Weldon |
| John Bradley | Chas. Weston |
| B. F. Barrett | J. A. Arnold |
| A. U. Barnnard | Grant Arnold |
| Chas. Brandt | C. O. Butterfield |
| Mark Carley | H. F. Crease |
| W. N. Coler | D. A. Cheever |
| H. M. Dunlap | Dan Gardner |
| H. M. Douglas | C. W. Gere |
| Chas. Glover | Geo. F. Hedges |
| J. A. Hossaek | J. W. Keys |
| T. G. Lansden | Ross Mattis |
| J. C. Miller | Rev. Noble |
| Chas. Riggs | Thos. Naughton |
| Dr. Geo. Sehott | H. L. Nieolett |
| Chas. Strahle | J. B. Phinney |
| Miss Thayer | A. M. Seott |
| J. R. Trevett | C. B. Smith |
| J. J. Tuthill | E. T. Whiteomb |

1874

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Anna Arnold | Edward Lynch |
| I. B. Arnold | W. S. Maxwell |
| Jaeob Baeh | W. A. Moore |
| W. F. Bishop | Chas. Stewart |
| O. F. Britton | W. Schweizer |
| A. Campbell | W. K. D. Townsend |
| A. J. Gardner | |

1875

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Bardwell | John L. Price |
| S. F. Balcom | G. W. M. Pittman |
| Frank Cook | Walter Stewart |
| Maggie Dunlap | W. F. Smith |
| Carrie Ells | S. L. Wilcox |
| B. F. Harris, Jr. | Jesse Wright |
| Frank Haltby | Frank Worden |
| Robt. Maxwell | |

1876

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Aaron Brown | J. S. Grindley |
| John Babb | H. A. Johnston |
| Florence Barrett | G. W. Johnston |

Board of Directors—Elections held in May

| Elected | President | Vice-Pres. | Secy. | Treasurer | Librarian | Director | Director |
|---------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1868 | G. W. Atherton | J. S. Jones | J. S. Lathrop | Aaron Beidler | T. B. Sweet | H. Beardsley | E. N. McAllister |
| 1869 | H. Beardsley | J. Conklin | W. H. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | E. Peterson | J. S. Lothrop | T. B. Sweet |
| 1870 | H. Beardsley | J. Conklin | W. H. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | E. A. Kratz | J. S. Lothrop | T. B. Sweet |
| 1871 | J. E. Conklin | B. C. Beach | E. A. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | Geo. Scroggs | J. S. Lothrop | J. S. Tulley's |
| 1872 | J. E. Conklin | B. C. Beach | E. A. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | Geo. Scroggs | J. M. Healy | Dan Rugg |
| 1873 | B. C. Beach | B. F. Johnson | E. A. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | Geo. Scroggs | J. M. Healy | Dan Rugg |
| 1874 | G. W. Gere | Dan Rugg | E. A. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | Geo. Scroggs | J. A. Arnold | B. C. Beach |
| 1875 | G. W. Gere | J. M. Healy | E. A. Kratz | E. N. McAllister | Geo. Scroggs | J. B. Arnold | J. J. Bogardus |
| 1876 | G. W. Gere | I. B. Arnold | E. Whitcomb | E. N. McAllister | E. A. Kratz | J. C. Beach | Dan Rugg |

CHAPTER II

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE Champaign Public Library and Reading room dates back fifty years to July 21, 1876, at which time the City Council of Champaign voted to accept the generous gift of the Champaign Library Association, upon the condition named in their resolution of May 11, 1876.

Friday September 8, 1876 the Mayor, Henry Trevett, appointed nine citizens, the Council approving the same, to constitute the first Board of Directors to administer the affairs of the Library in behalf of the city in the interest of the general public, in accordance with the Statute of the State, as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Geo. W. Gere | E. A. Kratz |
| Wm. Bowen | F. Dollinger |
| S. L. Wilcox | H. Swannell |
| I. B. Arnold | D. A. Cheever |
| B. C. Beach | |

At the same time a Library account was opened with the City Treasurer for the said Board of Directors to draw upon.

This Board represented all shades of political, religious, business and sectional interests of the city, East and West sides.

American, Irish, English, German, Swiss.

Republican, Democrat, Prohibition, Independent.

Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, Altruist.

Attorney, Physician, School Superintendent, Druggist, Shoe Dealer, Merchant, Tailor, Cutter.

It proved to be a very harmonious and efficient body, as much, if not more so than all of its successors. Under the law, they received no compensation, and their services were freely and cheerfully given for the public good.

Thursday September 17, 1876 the said Board met in Arnold's Shoe store on Main Street and organized for active service. They drew lots for one, two and three year terms, elected George W. Gere, President, E. A. Kratz, Secretary and appointed three temporary Committees:

Rules and regulations—Arnold, Wilson, Kratz.

Rooms and librarian—Dollinger, Bowen, Swannell.

Books and periodicals—Beach, Kratz, Cheever.

Thursday October 24, 1876 the deed of gift was formally presented to the Board, read and accepted by it on behalf of the city.

Deed of Gift

This indenture made on this the fourteenth day of September A. D. 1876, between the Champaign Library Association of the City of Champaign and the Board of Directors of the Public Library and reading room, of the City of Champaign of the second part; both of the County of Champaign and the State of Illinois—

Witnesseth: That whereas at a meeting of the said Library Association held at the Boot and Shoe store of I. B. Arnold in said city on the twenty-fifth day of August A. D. 1876, it was on motion, Resolved by said Association that it, said Association, would give to the City of Champaign such of its property and money, consisting of books, book cases, cash, etc., as is contained in the schedule hereto attached, marked "Exhibit A" and made a part of this indenture upon the conditions hereafter expressed. Which said Resolution was by vote of the members of said Library Association unanimously carried. And whereas, the said City of Champaign is in favor of having and maintaining a free Public Library and Reading room as provided for by an Act of the Legislature of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act to authorize cities, incorporated towns and townships to establish and maintain free Public Libraries and reading rooms, approved and in force March seventh A. D. 1872.

And whereas, the City Council of the said city of Champaign, did on the 21st day of July A. D. 1876 decide to establish and maintain a Public Library and reading room under said Act.

And whereas, the said Mayor of the said city did on the eighth day of September A. D. 1876, appoint a Board of nine directors for the same in pursuance of the provisions of said Act. And the same was on said last date approved by the city Council of said city.

Now this indenture witnesseth that said party of the first part doth give, grant and convey unto the said party of the second part, all and singular the personal property, chattels and money scheduled in said "Exhibit A" hereto attached, upon the following conditions, that is to say—

First, that the said city of Champaign, will establish and maintain in the said city of Champaign, a free Public Library and reading room, according to the spirit and intention of said Act, and any and all amendments thereof.

Second, that the city Council of the said City of Champaign, shall annually levy and collect a tax of at least one thousand dollars per annum. Said tax so annually levied and collected to be used solely for the purpose of establishing and maintaining said Public Library and reading room, and making addition to said Library and the purchasing of such other properties necessary for the maintaining thereof and paying the necessary expenses connected with the proper maintenance thereof.

It is further understood, covenanted and agreed, that upon a failure to comply with said condition, all of said property so scheduled as aforesaid shall revert to and vest in said Library Association.

In testimony whereof the said Library Association has caused these presents to be signed by its President and Trustees, and attested by its Secretary and sealed with their seals.

At the City of Champaign on the day and year above written—

J. Bacon (Seal)

Jno. Thomas (Seal)

W. A. Moore (Seal)

Trustees of Champaign
Library Association.

Geo. W. Gere (Seal)

President.

I, Edwin T. Whitecomb, Secretary of said Champaign Library Association, do hereby certify that said Library Association has no corporate seal.

E. T. Whitecomb (Seal) Secretary.

State of Illinois /
Champaign County \ ss.

I, Frank Wilcox, a notary public in and for said county in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Jonathan Bacon, John Thomas, and William A. Moore, trustees of the Champaign Library Association, and George W. Gere, president of said Association, and Edwin T. Whitecomb, secretary of said Association, personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument, as their free and voluntary act, and the free and voluntary act of the said Library Association for the uses and purposes therein set forth—

Given under my hand and official seal this eighteenth day of September A. D. 1876.

(Seal) Frank Wilcox, Notary Public

Exhibit "A"

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 133 yds. Cocoa matting @ .60----- | \$ 79.80 |
| 4 Tables (walnut) @ 7.50----- | 30.00 |
| 1 Railing (walnut)----- | 20.00 |
| 3 Hat shelves (walnut)----- | 3.00 |
| 2 Reading desks (walnut)----- | 20.00 |
| 1 Coal box (Poplar)----- | 10.00 |
| 1 Desk (walnut)----- | 16.00 |
| 1 Library chair----- | 7.00 |
| 1 Coat strip and hooks----- | 1.10 |
| 1 Clock ----- | 7.50 |
| 1 Stove (Volcano) & Zinc----- | 26.85 |
| Pipes, elbows, etc.----- | 2.65 |
| 1 Sign lamp----- | 3.25 |
| 3 doz. chairs @ 8.50----- | 25.50 |
| 3 Window curtains----- | 10.00 |
| 1 Four light pendant----- | 6.50 |
| 2 Two light pendant @ 3.50----- | 7.00 |
| 34 ft. Pipe and gas fixtures----- | 19.70 |
| 1/2 ton coal ----- | 2.20 |
| 1 Book case (walnut)----- | 60.00 |
| 1 Book case (pine)----- | 18.00 |
| 1 Stand (walnut)----- | 2.00 |
| Cash ----- | 45.41 |
| Total ----- | \$423.46 |
| 750 vols. numbered consecutively without regard to classification in old catalog. valued at ----- | \$900.00 |
| Total gift----- | \$1323.46 |

At this same meeting, the several Committees reported, rules, agreements and contracts entered into, all of which was approved by the Board.

The rules and regulations provided among other things—That all persons over ten years of age, residents of the city, shall be allowed the privileges of the Library and Reading rooms. That the Library and Reading room shall be opened to patrons and visitors from 2 to 5 and 6 to 10 p. m. on week days and from 2 to 6 on Sundays. That books for loan shall be given out over guaranteed cards signed by a freeholder. Also that no person shall have access to the shelves, the Librarian to hand out and replace all books.

The entire second floor of No. 24 Main St. was secured for \$150 per year rental. The rear third of this was railed off for book shelves and office desk, the front to be used for reading and reference work, containing tables and paper rack. Mrs. M. M. Frampton was employed as Librarian at a salary of \$20.00 a month.

The president stated that the transfer of the property and effects of the Association was complete and now installed in the aforementioned rooms.

The Board then instructed the librarian to classify, renumber and catalogue the books preparatory to the formal opening of the Library and Reading room and November 21st, 1876 was agreed upon as the date.

The new classifications showed up as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| History, Biography and Travel | 171 volumes |
| General and religious literature | 91 volumes |
| Fiction, Humor and Drama | 243 volumes |
| Science and Art | 78 volumes |
| Poetry | 14 volumes |
| Juvenile | 93 volumes |
| Reference | 32 volumes |
| Public documents | 37 volumes |
| Number of papers on file | 12 |
| Magazines | 4 |

And everything was in readiness for the general public to make use of, and enjoy its privileges.

No. 24, Main Street, 2nd Floor, 13 Years

The first home of the Champaign Public Library and Reading room was formally opened to the general public on Tuesday evening, November 21, 1876, the exercises being held in Barrett Hall; a well filled house showed the interest the reading public manifested on this occasion.

Hon. Abel Harwood presided and in a few preliminary remarks appropriate to the occasion presented the several speakers.

Rev. W. G. Pearce made the principal address, taking for his text the motto: "Healing for the Soul" which he said was placed over the entrance of the first library that was ever known.

Mr. G. W. Gere was the historian, giving the ups and downs of the Association and the cheerful manner it relinquished its charge for the benefit of the whole people.

Mr. Geo. Scroggs alluded to the question of taxation provided by law which would maintain a respectable library.

Mayor Trevett on behalf of the City accepted the trust thus confided to the public.

The exercises of the evening were interspersed with music and song by Warren Maltby and a mixed choir and the Champaign people retired that evening in possession of a *Free Public Library and Reading room*, a long felt want at last supplied even though it was of modest proportion.

The first report of the Board of Directors to the City Council covered six months from date of opening, as follows, to wit:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Books received from Association----- | 759 |
| Books received by donations----- | 340 |
| Books received by purchase----- | 277 |
| | |
| Total number of volumes in the Library----- | 1376 |
| No. of volumes loaned, 5868, daily average of | 31 |
| Classes—History, Biography and Travel----- | .08 % |
| General and religious literature----- | .09 % |
| Fiction Humor and Drama----- | .40 % |
| Science and Art----- | .04 % |
| Poetry ----- | .01 % |
| Juvenile ----- | .038% |
| Whole number of visitors----- | 11528 |
| Daily average No. of visitors----- | 61 |

Papers on file:

Dailies:

Tribune, Times, Inter Ocean.

Weeklies:

Harpers, Leslie, Herald, N. Y. Gazette,
Union and other County papers.

Monthlies:

Scientific American and Supplement, Harpers, Scribners, St. Nicholas, Jolly Joker.

Desk receipts:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Dues ----- | \$ 6.00 |
| Fines ----- | 16.35 |
| Catalogues sold----- | 8.30 |
| | |
| Total ----- | \$30.65 |

The Library being thus launched, remained on Main Street for 13 years, increasing in usefulness and patronage according to its income, but as time passed by, the Directors began to see that the expense of light, heat, rent and janitor service was absorbing too much of the \$1000.00 appropriation that should by rights go towards increasing the Library to keep pace with the reading public, so accordingly in 1887 they asked the City for an appropriation of \$1500.00 to relieve the embarrassment. The Council however, did not meet the proposition with favor and a like request the next year met with the same action. The Council evidently had some other project in view tending to relieve the situation.

City Building, South West Room, 7 Years

In 1889 the City having erected the present public building on ground donated by David Bailey, corner University Ave., Neil and Chester Sts., the south west room on the ground floor was set aside for the Library and Reading room and the City generously

furnished the same with new cases, shelves, counters, chairs, and railing for library purposes. The Directors accepted the same, moved, became installed therein, rent free, early in December, 1889.

The condition of the Library and its patronage on entering this second home of its existence is gleamed from the Director's report to the Council.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Whole no. of volumes in Library----- | 3712 |
| Volumes loaned for home use----- | 11783 |
| Volumes loaned for reference work----- | 1551 |
| Total number of volumes given out----- | 13334 |
| Making a daily average of volumes----- | 44 |

Classed as follows:

| | |
|--|-------|
| History ----- | .027% |
| Biography ----- | .022 |
| Travel ----- | .016 |
| Religious ----- | .006 |
| Miscellany ----- | .035 |
| Fiction ----- | .415 |
| Science and Art----- | .025 |
| Poetry ----- | .018 |
| Juvenile ----- | .361 |
| Reference ----- | .062 |
| Bound periodicals ----- | .013 |
| Public documents ----- | .001 |
| Whole no. of patrons and visitors----- | 27348 |
| Daily average attendance----- | 90 |
| No. of card holders for home use----- | 1169 |
| Per cent of borrowers per capita----- | 16 |

Revenue—

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| City appropriation----- | \$1000.00 |
| Received from fines----- | \$ 11.40 |
| Catalogues ----- | 9.60 |
| Cards ----- | 4.10 |
| Old papers ----- | 3.25 |
| Total receipts ----- | 28.35 |
| | ----- |
| | \$1028.35 |
| Total expenditures ----- | 1094.68 |
| Daily papers----- | 6 |
| Weeklies ----- | 15 |
| Monthlies ----- | 8 |
| | ----- |
| Total ----- | 29 |

Four years of rent free quarters for the Library passed and yet the Directors were still endeavoring to pry a larger appropriation than \$1000.00 from the City Council, because the increase of the Library was not keeping pace with the reading public; be-



A. C. BURNHAM

sides the said revenue was inadequate for a city like Champaign claiming 8000 population. The Council however did the next year appropriate \$1500.00 for the 1894 revenue.

About this time Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Burnham had practically decided to make some fitting testimonial to the Library that would be of general benefit to mankind but alas the Heavenly Father called Mrs. Burnham home before definite steps were taken in the matter.

Mr. Burnham however did not abandon the scheme, for on the evening of December 10, 1894 he invited the Rev. C. N. Wilder, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, B. C. Beach, president of the Library Board, B. E. Spalding, an alderman of the city and Geo. W. Gere, a devoted friend and trusted attorney, to meet at his residence, and in the presence of his son and daughter disclosed to them the project so long held in contemplation, which in substance was a gift of \$40000.00 for a Library building and \$10000.00 as an endowment fund.

The proposition met with unqualified favor, and a deed of gift was subsequently drawn up by said attorney, who on the first day of January, 1895, acting for Mr. Burnham, presented the matter to the City Council then in session, to wit:

The conveyance of the residence property at Nos. 306-308 West Church Street in this city and \$35000.00 for securing plans, erecting a building to be known as the "Burnham Athenaeum" in honor of his deceased wife, equipping and furnishing the same, and also \$10000.00 to be known as the Julia F. Burnham's "Endowment fund", the income only to be used for books, the aggregating amount being \$50000.00.

Alderman Spalding then presented a resolution to the Council accepting the deed of gift, which resolution was carried unanimously; whereupon the deed was delivered to Mr. Beach, president of the Board of Directors and on the 2nd day of January, 1895, Mr. Burnham placed to the credit of the Library Board \$10000.00 representing the endowment fund, which was invested in farm mortgages.

The Board of Directors then took up its part of the work: secured plans and in due time, barring delays, erected the "Burnham Athenaeum" on said lots so donated—furnished it complete ready for occupancy, at Mr. Burnham's expense, and the Library was transferred thereto Saturday, December 12th, 1896.

This brings us down to the third and last lap in the course of the library's existence, where it has found a permanent home.

The Burnham Athenaeum

The third and permanent home of the Public Library and Reading Room was publicly opened on December 17th, 1896. The exercises being held in the Presbyterian Church on which occasion Capt. T. J. Smith acted as Master of Ceremonies.



JULIA F. BURNHAM

The presentation of the building was made in Mr. Burnham's behalf by his devoted friend and legal adviser, Geo. W. Gere who after giving a history of the library from the organization of the Association in 1868, used the following language, to wit:

"And now, to you, Mr. Manford Savage, as president of the Board of Directors according to that ancient custom of livery and seisin, I deliver this key and thereby place your Board in full control and absolute possession of the property conveyed in Dr. Burnham's deed of gift.

And, to you, Mr. Ezra E. Chester, the mayor of the City of Champaign, I deliver this sheet of pure white paper, upon which to make your appointments of members of the Board of Directors recognizing the power, authority and duly resident in you and your successors in office to make the appointments of members of the Board of Directors, who have control of this property: and in conclusion it is the hope of the donor that the Library may grow in usefulness and importance in dissimulating knowledge."

A very extended and flowery response was made by Mr. Savage, and Mr. Chester gave the assurance that the City wanted faithfully to fill its part in maintaining the trust. Joseph Carter Superintendent of the public schools made some pertinent suggestions about the benefit the Library would be to the schools. Then, Andrew S. Draper, president of the University of Illinois made the principal address of the evening, which was well received.

Deed of Gift

The instrument that has made this magnificent building possible, now stands a monument to a noble woman, and a lasting benefit to mankind, particularly young America—read as follows:

Deed of Gift

This indenture witnessed, that I, Albert C. Burnham a widower of the City of Champaign, County of Champaign, State of Illinois, do hereby give and convey to the Board of Directors of the City Library of the City of Champaign, State of Illinois and their successors in office, the following described real estate to be held by them and their successors in office in trust forever as a site for the City Library building, to wit:

Lots nine (9) and ten (10), block four (4) of Farnum, Clark and White's addition to Urbana, (now a part of the City of Champaign) in the State of Illinois, the same being valued at the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5000.00).

And I also hereby give to the said Board of Directors the further sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35000.00) in cash for the purpose of erecting and building upon said premises herein described a suitable building in which shall be kept forever the City Library of the said City of Champaign and to provide for suitable reading and lecture rooms in said building.

The above grant is made upon the following conditions, that is to say: That the City Council of the City of Champaign, State of Illinois will accept the said donation of site and funds for the erection of said building and maintain the City Library therein forever.

And will annually appropriate for the maintenance of said building and the Library to be kept therein the sum of not less than two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) that is to say, being one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) in excess of what has been annually appropriated for library purposes for many years past, provided it shall not be required that such appropriation shall in any one year exceed the sum produced by a tax of two mills on the dollar of the property taxable in said City as assessed in the preceding year for State and County purposes.

And that the building shall be named and forever known as the "Burnham Athenaeum."

The said thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35000.00) above given shall be used exclusively for the erection of the Library building for the purpose above contemplated, the amount to be placed to the credit of the Board of Directors of the City Library of the City of Champaign, Illinois, with Burnham, Trevett and Mattis, and to be paid out by them upon proper warrants and builder's certificates. The intention of giving the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35000.00) is, that it shall include the entire expense for plans and the completion and furnishing of said building.

The possession of the above described premises is hereby reserved until June 1st, 1895; and the right to remove all buildings therefrom is also reserved to said date.

The privileges of said library may be extended to persons residing outside of the said City of Champaign upon such terms and conditions as the Board may from time to time by its regulations prescribe in compliance with Chapter 81, Section 6 of Hurd's Revision of the Statutes of Illinois, of the date of 1893. And the right and privileges is hereby granted to the said Board of Directors to provide and maintain in said building a suitable lecture room.

And I hereby give to the said Board of Directors of the City Library of the City of Champaign, State of Illinois, and their successors in office the further sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10000.00) in trust forever for the uses and purposes following, that is to say: As, and for a memorial fund to be kept invested at interest in such securities as the said Board shall deem safe, the income from which is to be annually expended in the purchase of books for said City Library. The books so purchased with such funds shall have inscribed upon their label: "This book was purchased by the Julia F. Burnham Memorial Fund", the said books to be placed in the City Library and become a part thereof.

In the event that said trust fund of ten thousand dollars

(\$10000.00) shall at any time become impaired by reason of loss, then and in that case the said Library Board shall from time to time add the income of the remaining portion to the principal sum until it is fully restored to the sum of ten thousand dollars (10000.00), when again the income shall be used for the purchase of books as aforesaid.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of December A. D. 1894.

Albert C. Burnham, (Seal)

State of Illinois,
Champaign County

I, W. P. Spalding, a Notary Public in and for the said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Albert C. Burnham, widower, personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this 29th day of December, A. D. 1894.

W. P. Spalding (Seal)
Notary Public.

Filed January 2nd, 1895 at 2-1/2 o'clock P. M.

W. G. Brown,
Recorder.

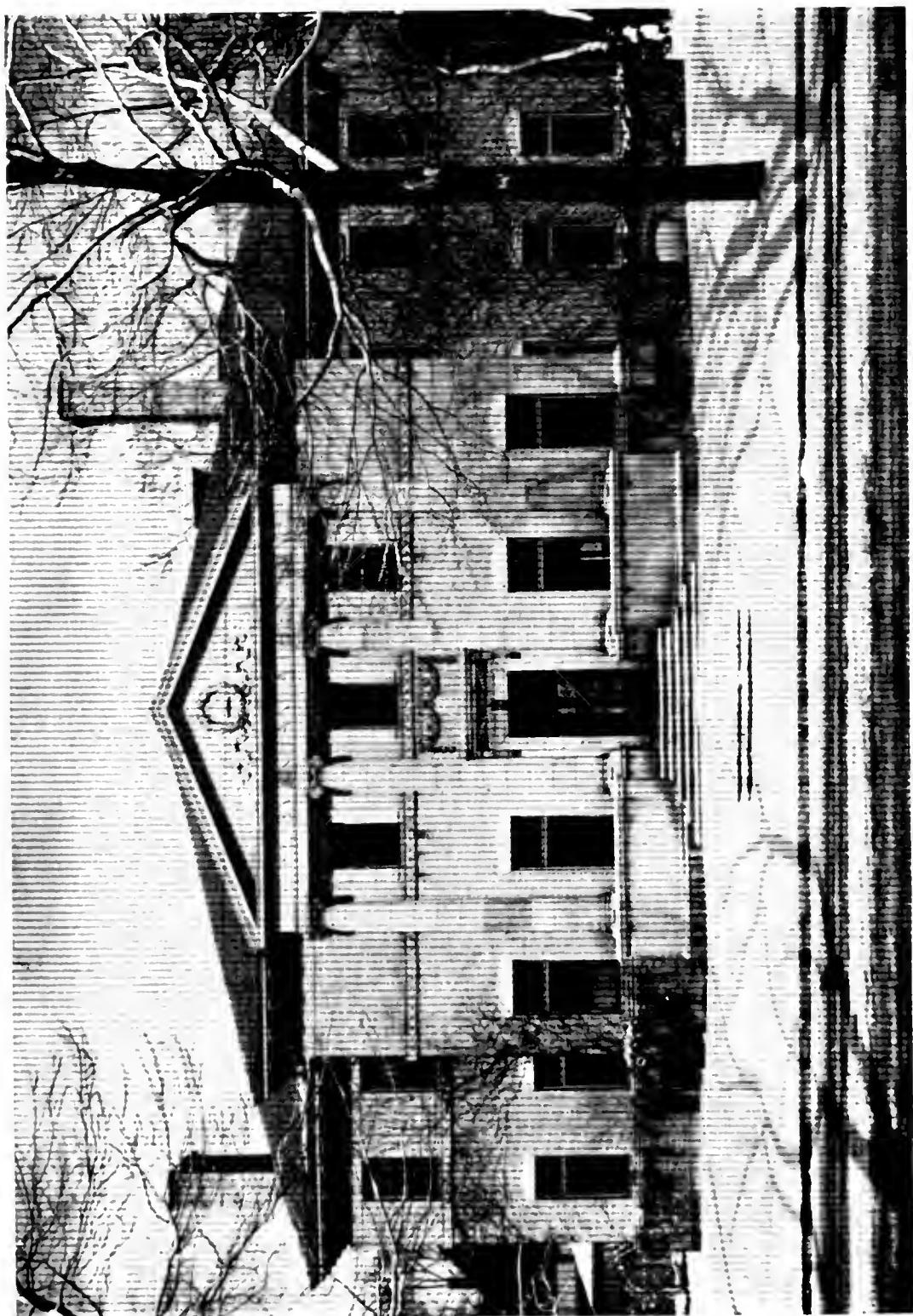
The Building Itself

The building is of light gray brick, of special dimensions and has a very pleasing exterior. The entrance, between two massive fluted pillars reaching to the eaves, is immediately beneath the inscription "This building was erected by A. C. Burnham as a Free Public Library, for the city of Champaign, anno domini MDCCCXCV."

The basement under the whole structure contains a furnace room, coal cellar, janitor's work shop, ash pit, storage room and a "catch all."

A restful atmosphere of warmth and comfort is maintained in the entire main floor. The large entrance hall, wide stairway, large reading room, newspaper room and reference room, are easily supervised from the charging desk which is centrally located in a spacious rotunda. In addition to these rooms, the librarian's private office, separated from the loan department by glass partitions, is located on the first floor. A large stack room directly back of the loan desk, is furnished completely with steel shelving.

On the second floor is an auditorium, children's room, medical library, and club room.



BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY

Twenty Years Progress

With the Burnham Athenaeum now in possession of the Board of Directors, a new era in library matters began, with promised greater prosperity and enlarged benefits to the public, from the assured fact of a fixed income for new books, and more liberal appropriations anticipated from the city.

The condition of the Library and its patronage on entering the Athenaeum, is disclosed in the 20th annual report of the Board to the city council, June 1st, 1896, summarized as follows:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Whole no. of volumes in the library----- | 5593 |
| No. loaned for home use----- | 15641 |
| No. loaned for reference work----- | 2715 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Total no. of volumes given out----- | 18356 |
| A daily average of----- | 59 |
| Whole no. of visitors----- | 33510 |
| Daily average of visitors----- | 107 |

Percentage of the different classes of books read:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| History ----- | .025% |
| Biography ----- | .021% |
| Travel ----- | .013% |
| Religious ----- | .006% |
| Miscellaneous ----- | .037% |
| Fiction ----- | .489% |
| Science and Art----- | .010% |
| Poetry ----- | .014% |
| Juvenile ----- | .234% |
| Reference ----- | .054% |
| Bound periodicals ----- | .036% |
| Magazines ----- | .052% |

Upon this showing, the Board granted the librarian an assistant at fifteen dollars per month, at the same time increasing the librarian's salary to fifty dollars per month.

The Mason Library

In 1898 the Library came into possession of what was known as the "Mason Library" through the generosity of Benj. F. Johnson, who bequeathed the library the sum of \$1000.00 for books, including a case.

This collection consisted of nearly eight hundred (800) volumes of most rare and valuable books many of which are of historical character, now out of print and not to be found anywhere.

The Board of Directors considered the collection of so much importance that it was placed in the reference department and

kept under lock and key and was labelled, "The bequest of Benj. Johnson."

Children's Department

In Sept. 1899 a children's department was opened and the small southeast room (now the private office) was devoted exclusively for their use. All the juvenile works were placed therein, with low tables and chairs for comfort, and a story hour established for their benefit. The department proved very successful calling for a larger room on the first floor, and this in turn became crowded, so that in 1916 the entire collection of Children's books was moved to the second floor, in new and more spacious quarters. Three rooms were thrown together for this purpose, and low shelving added for the accommodation of the children. Then again in 1923, the children's department became so congested, that additional space was necessary. To relieve this crowded condition, about 16 feet of the auditorium was added to the Children's Room, shelving placed around the entire room, and the books for older boys and girls placed in it, thus creating for the first time, an Intermediate Department. The 50th annual report for the year ending May 31, 1926, shows a total of 7,583 volumes in the juvenile department.

The Branch Libraries

To the librarian, Miss Le Crone, belongs the credit of the first trial for a Branch Library on the east side of the city, when in September 1899, a collection of books was placed in the Association House, in charge of Miss Carrie Howell. This act was approved by the Board in May 1900. The venture was soon abandoned, but in 1903, it again opened with headquarters in various places, i. e. Frank's Greenhouse, in the Vest Building and other temporary locations, with volunteer assistants in charge during the summer months, and students from the University of Illinois Library School during the college year. However, in 1907, it became pretty well established and a paid assistant was placed in charge, the School Board generously giving space in the Marquette School building for the books, etc. When the crowded condition of this school made it imperative to use the room occupied by the Branch Library for school purposes, the School Board again came to the rescue and fitted up a large room in the basement for the use of the Library. For six years the Branch was located in these quarters, with of course, sanitary condition not of the most desirable, but in September 1925, another move was made to the first floor, with the possibility of remaining there for several years. At the expiration of that time, the Library Board hopes to be able to take advantage of the generous offer of the School Board to lease a section of the Marquette School grounds for a period of ninety-nine years for \$1.00, to erect a suitable building as a permanent home for the Marquette Branch Library.



CHILDREN'S ROOM



CHILDREN'S ROOM SHOWING PORTION OF INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

On May 5, 1920, the Board authorized the establishing of a Branch Library in the western part of the city, to be located in the Dr. Howard School, in answer to a petition from the residents west of Prospect Avenue. The following July, the Library was opened to the public, with Nellie W. Auld in charge. It proved to meet a long felt want for that section, as was shown by the several annual reports, but unfortunately owing to financial reasons, the project was abandoned June 15, 1925 and the property transferred to the Main building.

In March 1921, residents in the north section of the city presented a petition to the Library Board, asking that a Branch Library be established in the Columbia School, but for financial reasons, the proposition was not considered feasible.

The Heating Plant

The proper heating of the Burnham Athenaeum gave the Directors no end of trouble. The plant installed was that of "indirect radiation" and the furnace required hard coal, which, taken together, neither the janitor nor Board of Directors fully understood. When the U. S. Government inspector was here superintending the erection of the Post Office building, he volunteered to look over the plant, which he said was somewhat faulty in a few minor points, but in the main was sufficient for doing satisfactory work. His instructions proved of considerable benefit and it gave better satisfaction but in 1912 the Board decided to change the radiation for the direct system and connected with the city main, which was then being extended west in the alley. This entailed considerable expense, but the elimination of a coal heaver and engineer justified the change.

Revenue

The maintenance of the library is dependent on three sources of revenue for its income:

- 1 The city appropriation or general tax.
- 2 The endowment fund (Julia F. Burnham and Robert Davison Burnham gifts).
- 3 The desk receipts.

The city has invariably appropriated a lump sum annually for library purposes and said amount has never yet equaled the 2 mill tax authorized by law, though of late years the amount allowed is very much more liberal.

This fund is kept in the City Treasurer's hands subject to orders issued on it by the president and secretary of the Board of Directors and authorized by said Board. It covers the general maintenance of the library, payment of the staff, heat, light, repairs to building and books, insurance, periodicals, rent of branch

and necessary expenses of the Library, and if any surplus remains, it is invested in books, etc.

The city commenced with a thousand dollar appropriation in 1876 under its agreements with the Champaign Library Association and it clung tenaciously to said amount for eighteen years. In 1895 the amount was increased to fourteen hundred and for the next four years it did not reach the minimum specified in Mr. Burnham's deed of gift: but in 1900, the city appropriated twenty-four hundred dollars, and since that time the annual amount has increased gradually until the present appropriation of twelve thousand was reached. These amounts show what strides the Library has made since occupying the Burnham Athenaeum, altho at the present date, the maximum tax (1.8 mills) allowed by Illinois Statutes, has not yet been reached.

The fines account does not amount to a great deal each year, but is sufficient to take care of small bills, such as freight and express charges, desk supplies, salaries paid to pages for putting up books etc.

The present condition of the Library is shown in the last budget for 1925-26:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| City tax levy----- | \$12,000.00 |
| Interest on Endowment-- | 1,256.00 |
| Total income----- | \$13,256.00 |

Salaries—

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Librarian ----- | 1,500.00 |
| Assistant librarian ----- | 1,200.00 |
| Children's librarian ----- | 900.00 |
| Part time ass't----- | 600.00 |
| Branch librarian ----- | 780.00 |
| Janitor ----- | 900.00 |
| Branch janitor----- | 90.00 |
| Total salaries ----- | \$ 5,970.00 |

Maintenance—

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Books ----- | 3,600.00 |
| Periodicals ----- | 450.00 |
| Binding ----- | 700.00 |
| Insurance ----- | 150.00 |
| Telephone ----- | 100.00 |
| Heat & Light ----- | 1,050.00 |
| Supplies ----- | 200.00 |
| Printing ----- | 100.00 |
| Building & grounds----- | 800.00 |
| Miscellaneous ----- | 136.00 |
| Total maintenance ----- | \$ 7,286.00 |
| Total budget----- | \$13,256.00 |



ROBERT DAVISON BURNHAM

Robert Davison Burnham Endowment Fund

In March 1920, Robert Davison Burnham, the only surviving son of the late A. C. and Julia F. Burnham, passed away at the age of 48 years, after a very brief illness. His great interest and pride in the monument which his father had left in memory of his mother, Julia F. Burnham, was demonstrated in an additional bequest to the Champaign Public Library of \$10,000.00 to be known as the Robert Davison Burnham Endowment Fund, the income from which is to be used exclusively in the purchase of books. With this gift, the Library is the beneficiary of a \$20,000.00 Endowment Fund.

Through the generosity of Mrs. R. D. Burnham, who succeeded her husband on the Board, books purchased from the Robert Davison Endowment Fund, are marked with a very beautiful book plate, the design of which is a restful home scene including fire place, easy chair and dog stretched comfortably before an open fire. In addition to the steel plate, Mrs. Burnham presented 1000 copies of the book plate to the Library. On May 31, 1926, eight hundred and seventy-five books had been purchased from this fund which will form a permanent part of the library collection.

The Library Board

The Board of Directors of the Public Library consists of nine persons residents of the city who serve their terms without compensation of any kind. They are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the City Commissioners, for three year terms in groups of three, thus making one group expire annually, being what is termed a permanent body. Vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or removal from the city are filled in like manner as the first appointment for the unexpired term.

The Board has remained non partisan down to the present time. The several city administrations have respected this characteristic condition of the first appointment, and the diversified interests of the general public has been fairly well balanced and preserved in the several boards.

The board became a mixed body in 1892 when Mayor Harris appointed three women, Mrs. A. C. Burnham, Mrs. W. S. Maxwell, Miss Florence Thorp to succeed three men whose terms had expired, and since this time woman has preserved the minority representation on the board.

In 1917 the city adopted Commission form of government. It was generally conceded that this act would automatically discharge the entire Library Board as well as the city officials under the old regime, leaving the Commissioners to determine the personal of a new board; whether it should consist of three, five or more members, as had been done in other cities. The harmony that had prevailed in the Board, its economic efficiency, the intelli-

gent and earnest service rendered and the apparent satisfaction of the public, may have had something to do with their retention in office. At any rate, as they were reappointed for the balance of their respective terms in office, in groups of one, two and three years, it seems a wise conclusion.

The following list gives the names of all who have served on the Board of Directors for the past fifty years, the first year appointed, the number of years served, also the name of the Mayor making the first appointment of each. It does not however, show re-appointments and those starred constitute the present incumbents:

| Mayors | Years | Directors | Service Years |
|-----------------|-------|----------------------|---------------|
| Henry Trevett | 1876 | Geo. W. Gere | 4 |
| " " | 1876 | William Bowen | 2 |
| " " | 1876 | Franz Dollinger | 13 |
| " " | 1876 | E. B. Arnold | 1 |
| " " | 1876 | Edwin A. Kratz | 36 |
| " " | 1876 | D. A. Cheever | 1 |
| " " | 1876 | Henry Swannell | 5 |
| " " | 1876 | S. L. Wilson | 2 |
| " " | 1876 | B. C. Beach | 16 |
| Henry Trevett | 1877 | W. S. Maxwell | 2 |
| " " | 1877 | J. B. Russell | 10 |
| " " | 1879 | E. V. Peterson | 5 |
| B. C. Beach | 1880 | J. B. McKinley | 9 |
| " " " | 1881 | A. J. Cheseboro | 14 |
| Wm. A. Day | 1883 | H. F. Aspern | 9 |
| B. C. Beach | 1885 | Edward Henry | 1 |
| " " " | 1885 | C. J. Sabin | 3 |
| " " " | 1886 | Thomas Kent | 3 |
| L. S. Wilcox | 1888 | Henry H. Harris | 5 |
| P. W. Woody | 1889 | J. T. Pearman | 3 |
| " " " | 1889 | Frances E. O'Neal | 3 |
| " " " | 1889 | H. D. Stoltey | 3 |
| John B. Harris | 1892 | Mrs. A. C. Burnham | 2 |
| " " " | 1892 | Mrs. W. S. Maxwell | 6 |
| " " " | 1892 | Miss Catharine Thorp | 1 |
| John B. Harris | 1893 | Miss Mamie McCabe | 1 |
| " " " | 1893 | J. M. F. Irwin | 1 |
| " " " | 1893 | H. S. Capron | 3 |
| " " " | 1894 | R. D. Burnham | 28 |
| " " " | 1894 | Mrs. W. F. Hardy | 7 |
| " " " | 1894 | G. N. Cunningham | 3 |
| " " " | 1894 | F. H. Lloyd | 8 |
| " " " | 1894 | M. McGraw | 9 |
| Ezra E. Chester | 1895 | Mrs. J. B. Russell | 26 |
| " " " | 1896 | Ozias Riley | 3 |
| " " " | 1896 | Manford Savage | 3 |

| Mayors | Years | Directors | Service Years |
|----------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| Jas. R. Scott | 1898 | Mrs. Annie Clark | 6 |
| C. J. Sabin | 1899 | Miss Mary E. Walker | 6 |
| " " " | 1899 | W. W. Maxwell | 6 |
| C. J. Mullikin | 1901 | Mrs. O. E. Miller | 26* |
| E. S. Swigart | 1903 | H. H. Berks | 7 |
| " " " | 1903 | F. G. Campbell | 3 |
| " " " | 1904 | Miss Ray L. Bowman | 6 |
| S. A. Blaine | 1905 | Chas. A. Kiler | 5 |
| " " " | 1905 | Mr. J. R. Stewart | 8 |
| " " " | 1906 | Dr. W. L. Gray | 3 |
| Saml C. Tucker | 1909 | Mrs. E. J. Townsend | 2 |
| " " " | 1909 | Dr. C. M. Craig | 3 |
| " " " | 1910 | Mrs. M. J. Calhoun | 3 |
| " " " | 1910 | Dr. Wm. M. Honn | 2 |
| " " " | 1910 | James McCann | 1 |
| Wm. Coughlin | 1911 | Mrs. J. B. Harris | 8 |
| " " " | 1911 | Dr. J. C. Dodds | 16* |
| " " " | 1912 | Wm. J. Dolan | 3 |
| " " " | 1912 | Dr. G. W. Rice | 2 |
| O. B. Dobbins | 1913 | C. L. Kiser | 14 |
| " " " | 1914 | G. R. Shawhan | 11 |
| " " " | 1915 | Dan G. Swannell | ½ |
| E. S. Swigart | 1915 | John R. Stewart | 3 |
| " " " | 1915 | Wm. F. Woods | 14* |
| S. C. Eucker | 1918 | Mrs. George Huff | 9* |
| " " " | 1919 | O. L. Davis | 2 |
| " " " | 1919 | G. P. Hostet | 3 |
| " " " | 1920 | Mary B. Harris | 1 |
| " " " | 1920 | P. W. Wright | 7* |
| " " " | 1921 | Mrs. R. D. Burnham | 6* |
| " " " | 1922 | C. M. Stahl | 5* |
| George Babb | 1925 | R. M. Campbell | 2* |
| " " " | 1925 | H. A. Hollister | 2* |

Officers of the Board

Presidents showing year first elected and no. served

| | | |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| 1876 | George W. Gere | 4 Years |
| 1880 | Jas. B. Russell | 9 " |
| 1889 | Henry F. Aspern | 4 " |
| 1893 | B. C. Beach | 3 " |
| 1896 | Manford Savage | 3 " |
| 1899 | Edwin A. Kratz | 7 " |
| 1906 | Henry W. Berks | 4 " |
| 1910 | Robert D. Burnham | 11 " |
| 1920 | J. C. Dodds | |

Vice Presidents

| | | |
|------|--------------|---------|
| 1910 | C. M. Craig | 2 Years |
| 1912 | J. C. Dodds | 5 " |
| 1920 | C. L. Kiser | 4 " |
| 1925 | P. W. Wright | |

Treasurers of the Endowment Fund

| | | |
|------|--------------------|---------|
| 1896 | G. N. Cunningham | 2 Years |
| 1898 | F. H. Lloyde | 5 " |
| 1903 | H. W. Berks | 3 " |
| 1906 | R. D. Burnham | 4 " |
| 1909 | Miss Ray L. Bowman | 1 " |
| 1910 | Wm. M. Honn | 1 " |
| 1911 | E. A. Kratz | 3 " |
| 1914 | W. J. Dolan | 1 " |
| 1915 | W. F. Woods | 5 " |
| 1920 | Mrs. G. Huff | |

Secretaries

| | | |
|------|--------------------|----------|
| 1876 | E. A. Kratz | 20 Years |
| 1893 | H. S. Capron | 3 " |
| 1893 | H. S. Capron | 3 " |
| 1899 | W. W. Maxwell | 6 " |
| 1905 | Miss Ray L. Bowman | 5 " |
| 1910 | Mrs. J. B. Russell | 4 " |
| 1914 | Mrs. B. Harris | 1 " |
| 1915 | Wm. F. Woods | 2 " |
| 1920 | Mrs. G. Huff | |

During the past decade, six members of the Board died in office viz. J. R. Stewart, Mrs. J. B. Russell, Robert D. Burnham, Mary Burnham Harris, C. L. Kiser and G. R. Shawhan.

Of the benefactor's family, Robert had succeeded his mother, Mary succeeded her brother and at her death in 1921, Mrs. R. D. Burnham was appointed to fill the vacancy. For the first time since 1892, the consanguinity was broken. However, there remain several grand children, eminently worthy descendants of a noble family.

The Library Staff and Hours

The library hours started in 1876 with afternoon and evening opening week days and four hours Sunday afternoons. This arrangement continued apparently satisfactory for four years with fairly good Sunday attendance; but in 1881 a protest from the "Murphy Meetings" claimed that their attendance was interferred

with, due to the library affording a trysting place for young people, or something to that effect; so the Sunday opening was abandoned, and the Library remained closed on that day for some years. On two subsequent occasions however, new members on the Board of Directors favored a three months' trial of Sunday service for the benefit of the public. Once in 1892 and again in 1907 the trials were made but the attendance did not justify the experiment.

On entering the Burnham Athenaeum in 1896, a broader scope of the uses and benefits and the convenience of the public was considered. The circulation department was open at 9 a. m. to close at 4 p. m. all day and the public was given free access to the stack room, thus doing away with some red tape in giving out books.

The library staff from the beginning consisted of only one person (the librarian) down to 1896 (20 years) as all departments had been in one room prior thereto, in plain view of the office desk, and besides the work did not seem burdensome to one person.

The first assistant was installed in 1897, a substitute came in a few years later who became assistant in 1907; a third assistant became necessary in 1914. Also a Branch Librarian became a necessity in 1907. In 1916, one of the general assistants was transferred to the Children's Room, with the title of Children's Librarian and in 1924 still another assistant working only part time, was added.

The personnel of the present staff is:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|------------------|
| Librarian | ----- | Ethel G. Kratz |
| Assistant librarian | ----- | Vereta McGuire |
| Children's librarian | ----- | Geneva Couberly |
| Part time ass't | ----- | Lina Wilske |
| Branch librarian | ----- | Cordelia Amsbary |
| Janitor | ----- | John Cole |

The first compensation paid the librarian was \$20.00 per month for the calendar year 1876—it was then made \$25.00 per month which sum prevailed for twelve years. On moving into the City Building in 1889 the sum of \$30.00 per month was allowed and in 1896 on entering the Burnham Athenaeum, \$50.00 per month was considered ample compensation. Since then the salary of the librarian has been increased every few years until the present allowance is \$125.00 per month.

The first assistant was given \$15.00 per month and this amount has been gradually increased to \$100.00. The second assistant who was also allowed \$15.00 per month at the start, now makes \$75.00.

The Branch Librarian commenced with \$20.00 per month which has been increased to \$65.00 per month.

The janitor of the Burnham Athenaeum was first in charge of the furnace and became responsible for the temperature of the building and received \$35.00 per month and subsequently given charge of the repair of books at \$15.00 per month extra, but since the city heat was installed the repair department was considerably abridged, (the books being sent away for rebinding) so his duties were shifted to the first floor and the salary fixed at \$45.00 per month which has later been increased to \$75.00.

The following list shows the individual members who have served on the staff together with the year of first appointment and the time each has served:

Library Staff

| | Librarian | Time |
|------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1876 | Mrs. M. M. Frampton | 7 Years |
| 1883 | Mrs. Annie M. Beidler | 1 " |
| 1884 | Mrs. M. M. Frampton | 6 " |
| 1890 | Mrs. A. W. Plotner | 1 mo. |
| 1890 | Miss Nellie C. Kellogg | 2½ yrs. |
| 1893 | Mrs. M. M. Frampton | 3 " |
| 1896 | Miss Anna Le Crone | 6 " |
| 1901 | Miss Florence E. Carter | 3½ " |
| 1903 | Miss Jeanette Roberts | 10½ " |
| 1915 | Miss Ethel G. Kartz | |

First Assistant

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1896 | Mrs. M. M. Frampton | 2 Years |
| 1898 | Miss Jeanette Roberts | 5½ " |
| 1903 | Miss Mabel Jones | 5½ " |
| 1908 | Miss Elizabeth Bryan | 2 " |
| 1910 | Miss Ethel G. Kratz | 4 " |
| 1914 | Miss Vereta Mc Guire | 2 " |
| 1916 | Miss Ruth Hardin | 8 " |
| 1924 | Miss Vereta McGuire | |

Second Assistant

| | | |
|------|----------------------|--------|
| 1907 | Miss Myrtle Hill | 1 Year |
| 1909 | Miss Ethel G. Kratz | 1 " |
| 1910 | Miss Fanny Hill | 3 " |
| 1920 | Miss Mabelle Chester | 4 " |
| 1924 | Miss Lina Wilske | |

Children's Librarian

| | | |
|------|----------------------|---------|
| 1916 | Miss Vereta Mc Guire | 8 Years |
| 1924 | Miss Mabelle Chester | 1 " |
| 1925 | Miss Geneva Couberly | |

Branch Librarian

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1907 | Miss Elizabeth Bryan | 1 week |
| 1907 | Miss Ethel Bond | 3 mo. |
| 1907 | Miss Marjorie Gage | 1 year |
| 1908 | Mrs. Louise L. Gage | 10 " |
| 1918 | Miss Cordelia Amsbary | 7 " |
| 1920 | Mrs. Nellie W. Auld | 4 " |

(Howard Branch)

Janitors

| Date | Name | Service |
|------|-----------------|---------|
| 1896 | George Strode | 1 year |
| 1897 | Oliver Dyson | 1 " |
| 1898 | Mark Hazen | 6 " |
| 1904 | Wm. McComb | 7 " |
| 1912 | Wm. Reisinger | 3 " |
| 1915 | J. C. Collins | 1 " |
| 1916 | W. C. Alexander | 4 " |
| 1921 | John Cole | |

The past ten years have been years of great growth, and have witnessed many changes and improvements. In 1919, a new lighting system was authorized at a cost of \$2,383.00. The massive and solid front door was, in 1922, replaced by two small, glass doors. In 1924, the stack room became so crowded that it became necessary to completely refurnish it in steel shelves in place of the lovely but cumbersome wooden shelving which had been installed at the time the building was erected. This change increased the capacity some 6,000 volumes.

The increase in the usefulness of the Library, as demonstrated by the circulation statistics, may best be shown by the last annual report, a short summary of which follows:

Number of volumes in Library May 31, 1926----- 38,183

Number of Borrowers in Library May 31, 1926--- 7,552

Circulation of books:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Adult ----- | 86,250 |
| Juvenile ----- | 32,475 |
| Total ----- | 118,705 |

Magazine circulation ----- 5,576

Total circulation of books and magazines-----124,281

A comparison of statistics for ten years, 1916-1926, will be found in the accompanying table:

Ten Years Growth

| Year | 1916-17 | 1917-18 | 1918-19 | 1919-20 | 1920-21 | 1921-22 | 1922-23 | 1923-24 | 1924-25 | 1925-26 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Vols. in Library | 22,071 | 23,317 | 25,201 | 27,193 | 29,274 | 30,383 | 32,259 | 34,881 | 36,745 | 38,183 |
| No. borrowers | 4,372 | 4,861 | 5,398 | 5,886 | 6,035 | 6,543 | 6,865 | 6,932 | 7,570 | 7,552 |
| Circulation—books | 54,016 | 58,705 | 62,770 | 75,237 | 89,302 | 96,856 | 100,258 | 111,381 | 111,399 | 118,705 |
| (Circulation—Magazines) | 4,793 | 5,174 | 4,841 | 5,276 | 5,505 | 5,842 | 5,818 | 6,702 | 6,728 | 5,576 |

1926 increase over 1916

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Vols. in Library | 16,112 |
| Borrowers | 1,180 |
| Circulation | 64,689 |
| Magazine Circulation | 783 |

Benefactors

Albert Calvin Burnham

Albert Calvin Burnham's magnificent gift to the Champaign Public Library, stands as a monument to a generous spirit and for the good of the public.

He was born February 20th, 1839, at Summerfield, Michigan, the son of Calvin B. Burnham of Montague, Mass., and Mary Ann Bruce (Burnham) of Templeton, Mass., whose ancestry was colonial of English descent. He received a common school education in his native place and came to Champaign about 1859, possessed with good sense, willing hands and a determination to win. Rumor said that his first enterprise here was a confectionary stand, of short duration, however.

He read law with James B. McKinley and was admitted to the bar. His first case in court was against him, which so mortified his sensitive nature that he quit the law with the remark "that he was not cut out for a lawyer, but he knew that he could make good at something else." The Loan and Brokerage business was then entered into and carried to a very marked success, leaving a large estate in trust for the benefit of his heirs. He founded the banking house of Burnham, Condit and Scott, which later became Burnham, Trevett and Mattis, and was finally incorporated in the present Trevett-Mattis Banking Company.

Besides the Library gift mentioned above, he also provided for the Julia F. Burnham Hospital in the same liberal manner, by setting aside a similar amount for the Hospital building.

A veteran of the Civil War, he served his country as Q. M. Sergeant of the 76th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, following his regiment in all its campaigns and engagements. He was a republican in national issues and a sound money advocate on all occasions.

He married Julia F. Davison of Newark, N. J. in 1866 and issued a son and daughter, the former serving for 28 years on the Library Board and the latter in a similar capacity on the Julia F. Burnham Hospital Board.

He died September 13th, 1897 and was laid to rest in Mt. Hope cemetery.

Benjamin F. Johnson

Benjamin F. Johnson is another person deserving of special mention. He left by will, the sum of \$1000.00, which is mentioned above under "Mason Library."

He was one of the pioneer settlers of the city, listed in the city directory of 1870 as a farmer, but he had only one aim and

always appeared as a gentleman of leisure. He was the regular correspondent of a Farm journal and an occasional writer on scientific subjects.

He remained single, his sister keeping house for him. His home was located on White Street at the foot of Randolph, and when in 1868, the city agitated the question of opening said Randolph Street through his property to the south limit, he declared in language more forcible than elegant, that when the street was opened the city would pay for it, and forthwith he put a stone basement under the house. However, he made good by leaving \$10,000.00 to the city for the benefit of the City Park, which became available upon the subsequent death of his sister, and the pathetic fountain in the center of the park, together with the cement walks attest his generosity.

In addition to these prominent people and R. D. Burnham, who is mentioned in a fore-going chapter, many others have befriended the Library in more or less modest ways, among whom are Dr. Hartwell Carver Howard, who donated his medical library, the accumulation of fifty years of practice in the city, as a nucleus or starting point for a professional department in the Library. Space for this generous gift was set aside on the second floor. From time to time, other medical books and collections have been added to this. Drs. Kratz and Mills placed some valuable books with a number of medical journals of the better class, in the original collection and later the medical libraries of Dr. J. C. Dodds and Dr. L. S. Wilcox were added.

Another person deserving of mention in this survey, is the late George W. Gere, whose close connection with the Library in an official position and his intimate relation, social and legal, with Mr. Burnham, had no doubt, a great bearing on shaping the affairs made manifest January 1st, 1895.

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